

JUDGES REPORT

2026 March Theme - Open

Judge - Annette Scott - Sunshine Coast

Image Title	Comments	Score
Pretty Flower	Great use of colour and balance in this image drawing your eye through with the second flower in the background. Consider using a spray bottle to spray some water droplets onto the flower just to add a point of interest into the image. Nice work	4
Thanks For Breakfast	Look at those blue eyes. They just draw you right into the image. Both birds are sharp and they look like they are enjoying their snack. I am conflicted with the background; you have handled it well lighting wise but the division between the wall and the foliage is distracting. Consider shifting your shooting position, if you can, so the background is similar all the way through the image.	6
Emu Family	So great to see dad out with the kids. Shame it was in the middle of the day. Nature photography is so hard. Think about pulling down the highlights and even converting to black and white. Sometimes you get away with harsh lighting in mono images. Only suggestions up to you at the end of the day. Great capture though. Well seen.	6
Old Oil Rig Against the Sky	Oil derricks make great structures to play with. Sadly, there is just too much noise going on in this image. Astrophotography is so much fun to play with, but it also is full of challenges. Do some research on how to manage the noise in night shots if you are keen on mastering this type of work. There is plenty of info out there.	4
Do Come In	This looks a great concept. The idea is fabulous so keep working at it. The girl is not quite sharp or she is not out of focus enough. If you are trying to give this image that ghostly feel. Consider either making her totally sharp with a bit of movement in the lamp or use a slow shutter speed and create that ghosting effect. Also think about removing that red spot, it pulls the viewers eye straight to it. Great concept, keep working at trying out new ideas.	4
Morning Snorkel	Well this looks like he has had a great time. What a fun shot. The lighting and exposure are well handled, tells a little story. Maybe think about repositioning your snorkeler or have him walking out of the water with his gear in hand. Just so we can see his face more.	5
Evening Sunset	This is a fabulous sunset and you have the making of a beautiful image here. Think about cropping this down to a	5

	panorama type image. Down to the top of the clouds, bring it in so you only have 3 boats. (Magic number 3). Take some off the bottom, so the viewer is drawn into the image by the sun, then the eye will move around the scene. Have a play and see what you think. I will say sunset and sunrises have to be pretty spectacular to do well in competitions. You have to pull all the tricks out. Rule of thirds, high interest point, and have something dramatic. Good luck. Keep at it.	
Veins on the Leaf	Nice use of leading lines into the image. The colours are also nice and vibrant. However there needs to be a point of interest for the eye to rest on. Eg a bug or water droplet. Keep working at it. Just a suggestion this will be a personal choice.	4
A Full Moon	Lovely capture. Nice and sharp. Think about trying to get the full moon behind something. Eg building, light house tree. Google photo pills they have great examples. This would add more interest but a great capture well done.	7
View From Above	Aerial images are so fascinating. Lots of colours and beautiful lines to follow through the image. This scene is technically handled well, however consider cropping up from the bottom to have only 1 main river to follow through the image.	5
Footprint in Sand	This is a creative take on the footprint. Simple but effective. Colour tone suits the image, the print is on the top third and on an angle. Maybe a square crop but that would be a personal choice. This image works how it is. Well done.	9
Not Happy	No! this magnificent animal does not look happy at all. Has he been hurt?? Looks like there is wound on his shoulder. Consider dropping the exposure and or highlights to bring done the harsh lighting. Sometimes a black and white conversion also helps with strong lighting like this. Great capture	6
Captured By Venus	Great capture by you both. Pardon the pun. Lovely and sharp all the way through. Colours are very complementary and the angle is well thought out. Awesome.	8
Life – We take Root, Grow and Then Pass On	I like the idea behind this image but this combination of items makes it hard to find the connection, especially before I read the title. Technically everything is perfect, consider items that show a stronger connection to one another. Definitely keep working on it though.	5
Torchlight Through Fingers	This is interesting, once again I like the concept of what you are trying to achieve here. There is just too much white and no real shape to look for. Consider creating a leading line of light or spiraling of light. Just suggestions definitely keep working at this idea. It is fabulous that you are trying out new things. This one just doesn't hit the mark for me.	5
Waiting For a Feed	Great capture. Bird is lovely and sharp and great details in the fine feathers. There are a couple of highlights in the	7

	background that draw the eye away from the bird. Consider pulling the highlights down in post if you can. Beautiful capture well done.	
Black-neck Storks	Well done capturing these 2 together. Nice balance and symmetry however lighting is a little flat. So hard to find these beauties at the best time of day. Great work though.	6
Family Fun	Yes it looks like a fun day. You have captured this moment in time well. You have used angles to draw the viewers eye to the action. There is lovely light on the faces of the children. Well done	5
Fairy Martin	Awesome bird. Lovley positioning and the background is perfect. All of the bird is sharp where it needs to be. So hard to get these guys in the open so you have done well.	7
Metallic Starlings	What amazing eyes these birds have. They draw you straight into the image. Well done. Your exposure is spot on and the lighting on the birds is great. The eye on the second bird is just out of focus, depth of field I suspect. Sadly, that bit of greenery in the foreground is a distraction and there isn't much you can do with it. Great image though.	7
Female Fig Bird	Well done. Bird is lovely and sharp and the colours around it are nice. Consider cropping down from the top to get rid of those branches. Totally up to you. They are a little distracting. Don't you wish they would land somewhere without clutter in the back ground. Keep working at it.	6
Make the Turn	Great action shot. You have frozen the moment right on the turn showing the dirt flying as the horse makes it sharp turn. Consider bringing down the exposure and or highlights just to tame the brightness of the image. Great capture.	6
Time to Get Off	Great action shot. He does look like he is in a bit of trouble there, trying to get off the horse. You have frozen the moment in time well. Technically handled well. Consider shooting the rider falling off, or in the air just to give the image that wow factor.	7
Water Lily with Many Bees	This is an amazing capture of the lily and all the creatures that rely on it to survive. This image is technically well handled and all of these little native bees are in focus. Great work. The European bee coming out of the center draws the eye right into the image and then there is enough space to investigate the rest of the scene. Simple but effective.	9
Grooming Day at the Lake	Great image of a pelican brief. The lighting and time of day is perfect and colours really pop. Think about just darkening edges just a touch. Some may think this scene is a little busy, but for me I love the story and the social interactions going on within the group. Great capture	8
Like Walking a Tightrope	These birds are fantastic when they are fishing. Colours and sharpness are spot on. Consider spot removing some of the	8

	white spots around in the water. You can do this in open but not in a nature comp. Awesome capture well done	
Follow Me My Love	What spectacular ducks. The colours are fabulous. Think about having both animals all in the frame. My guess is you were trying to crop something out. Cropping like this is distracting for the viewer. The eye falls out of the image and you want the eye to come back to the main subject. Something to think about. Great exposure and lighting throughout the image.	5
Safe Landing	Lovely sharp image of the fishing bird. Looks like it was a miss. The angle across the image is nicely done, however consider leaving just a little more room in front of the bird. This creates a sense of anticipated movement. Great capture of this interesting bird.	7
Early Morning Row	Lovely angle with the rowers moving across the image. Water colour is beautiful, a great time of day to be out shooting. Consider lifting the shadows, as the rowers are a little dark. Also maybe have them coming towards you so we can see their faces. Keep working at it.	5
Tough Buffalo for Dinner	You have lucked upon this kill at the right time. Well done. Technically handled well. Consider darkening the edges of the images just a touch, just to give this scene some depth.	8

Image of the Month

Image Title	Reason for Placing
Water Lily with Many Bees	Congratulations. I just love the colour and the energy this image produces. I know how hard it is to get a pleasing image demonstrating our wonderful native bees at work. (Cecily Jones)